1: Rosen E-5 (1901-1902) 1924 SK6 Choroti SK6

Fig. 110. War club, of hard, heavy wood (palo mataco). Choroti. Grant'haco. Bolivia. 1/6 Riksm. 10. 3. 92.

As war weapons the Choroti use, beside bows and arrows, short, round-handled clubs of some very hard and heavy wood, usually palo mataco. The head and handle of the clubs is always carved in one piece (fig. 110). With these seemingly not very formidable weapons, the Indians are able — on account of the great hardness, heaviness and strength of the club material — to deal terrible blows, and they know how to use them with great skill.

In fighting their rivals, the Choroti women sometimes use knuckle-dusters of tapir hide or wood,[1] the latter being of a type identical with specimens found in ancient Indian graves in the mountain region to the west.[2] The Choroti use also bone awls as daggers. A bone awl especially suitable for a weapon is reproduced in fig. 111. It consists of the lower part of the leg-bone of a small deer; the foot serves for a handle, and the hoofs forms an excellent pommel. The weapon fits the hand very well when the thumb rests against the sole of the hoof.

For cutting up game, the Choroti use knives made of sharp-edged cane splinters. Knives and poniards, of cane, have been very extensively used in South America. Even among tribes possessing knives of stone or metal, to this day knives of cane are being used in certain ritual ceremonies. Thus Holmberg, for example, mentions that among the Ijca Indians of Northern Columbia, in childbirth the navel is cut with a cane splinter.[3]

The Choroti do not, however, possess only weapons of offence, but also weapons of defence. When on the subject on dress, I have described the mail shirts, made of closely woven, thick

Fig. 111. Awl, made out of a shank bone of a small deer. Bone awls are sometimes used as poniards. Choroti. Grant'haco. Bolivia. 3/5. Riksm. 03. 3. 181.

[1] Nordenskiöld (11), p. 33 and 36; also (13), p. 81.
[2] von Rosen (1), pp. 203 and 204.
[3] Holmberg (1), pp. 240 and 243.

1: Rosen E-5 (1901-1902) 1924 SK6 Choroti SK6

wife. Not infrequently it happens that two or more girls become enamoured of the same man. Then fierce fights are often fought out between the rivals, who in these encounters sometimes use knuckle-dusters or sharp-pointed bone awls (see fig. 111). The Choroti girls have a somewhat peculiar way of demonstrating their tender feelings towards their beloved; they do not kiss him, but scratch him with their nails and spit in his face![1]

When a woman has been taken to wife by the man she has chosen, the latter comes to live in her village, at least for some period of time.[2]

Division of labour as between the sexes among the Choroti.

M = men; W = Women.

Rearing and care of livestock	M[3]	W[3]
Fire kindling, by drilling	M	
Collecting fuel		W
" wild-growing, edible plants		W
" wild honey	M[3]	
Hunting and catching game	M	
Preparing the food	M[4]	W
Cultivation of food plants	M	W
Wool and cotton spinning		W
Sewing	M[3]	W[3]
Manufacture of feather ornaments	M	
" " articles of calabash	M	
" " pottery		W
" " articles of leather	M	W[3]
" " fishing nets	M	
" " articles of wood	M	
" " weapons	M	
" " bags, knitted of caraguata yarn		W
" " " " woollen "		W
Load carrying		W
Hut building	M	W
Weaving		W[3]
Drawing and carrying water		W
Beer brewing	M[5]	W[3]

The heavier burden of work undoubtedly falls to the lot of the women. It is their business to gather edible fruits, to carry home fuel and water, to prepare the food, and, of course, also to tend the children. When the tribe is travelling, it is the women who carry the household furniture and

[1] Nordenskiöld (13), p. 81.
[2] Nordenskiöld (13), p. 83.
[3] According to Nordenskiöld (13), p. 87.
[4] Roasting the food. According to Nordenskiöld (13), p. 87.
[5] Beer fermenting, only. According to Nordenskiöld (13), p. 87.

[Text continues on p. 163]